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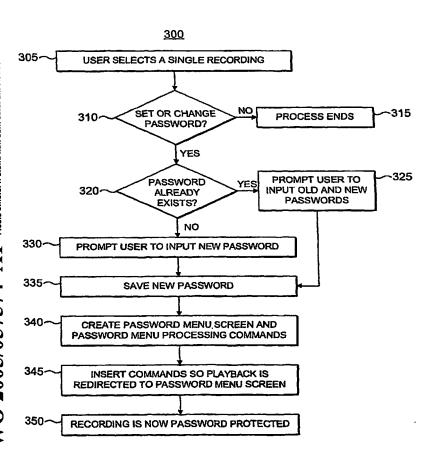(30) **Priority Data:**
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(54) **Title:** METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR RESTRICTING PLAYBACK OF RECORDED DIGITAL SIGNALS

(57) **Abstract:** A password protection function enables a user to assign a password to signals including audio and/or video signals recorded by their own digital recording apparatus, and is capable of providing both backward and forward compatibility for older and future digital playback apparatuses, respectively. According to an exemplary embodiment, a method (300) for performing digital recording and playback includes steps of enabling a user to record digital signals onto a digital storage medium, receiving a password from the user (325, 330), storing the password in at least one unreserved data field on the digital storage medium, wherein the at least one unreserved data field is included in a first presentation sequence for the recorded digital signals (335), and requiring the password to be input before playing back the recorded digital signals.

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